THE BUMBLE BEE

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JULY, 1945

Columbia River Packers Association
Astoria, Oregon

EDITORIAL

Fish Versus Dams

The Columbia River salmon industry has a historical background of almost a century of existence. Columbia River canned salmon has been premium article in world trade since the first salmon were canned by William Hume in 1866. Prior to that period commercial production on the Columbia was salted and shipped in barrels, the bulk of the production going to Australia. During its history this industry has returned almost a billion dollars in value to the Columbia Basin area.

During the past five years, with runs depleted by factors over which the industry has had little or no control, Columbia River salmon fishing returns have represented four per cent interest on an investment of over $225,000,000. In addition it has been the principal support of some 20,000 persons engaged in fishing operations or cannery work.

Adult salmon migrate from the Pacific Ocean into the Columbia and ascend its reaches and those of its tributaries until they come to the shallow gravel bars and cold water of the stream sources. There the female salmon deposits her eggs and they are milted by the male salmon. The adult fish live a few months and die. The young salmon fry hatch from the eggs, and, during following months, start on their journey to the ocean where they will spend from four to five years before returning again to their home streams and the gravel bars where they were born. A driving instinct forces them to return to their original home, and if any obstacle is placed in their path they will batter themselves to exhaustion and death rather than turn aside to seek new waters.

There are many reasons why there are not as many salmon entering the Columbia today as there were 50 years ago. Losses of millions and millions of young fish in unscreened irrigation ditches; changes of water conditions caused by lumbering and mining operations; and the toll of the commercial and an ever increasing sports fishery. The main reason, however, for this depletion can be attributed to the construction of dams, barring the free and natural access of these salmon to their spawning grounds.

Many of these dams, erected without regard to the preservation of this valuable resource, stand as absolute and final bars to the passage of the salmon runs. Grand Coulee, Black Canyon, Swan Falls, and many others are in this category. The presence of these dams has reduced the available spawning areas for the Columbia River salmon to 25 per cent of what was available a half century ago.

Other dams such as Bonneville and Rock Island have some provision for the passage of the adult salmon going upstream and the young fry returning, but in every case careful investigation has shown a distinct loss of fish in *both* migrations.

The program for the development of the Columbia, Snake, and Willamette Rivers, calls for the erection of many more dams. It does not require much thought to reach the realization that the continual detrition, resulting as each structure is completed, will in the end entirely destroy the Columbia River salmon industry.

The industry has been the subject of much public criticism for its opposition to further dam construction in the Columbia Basin on the ground that it is opposing public improvements of much greater importance than the industry itself, on purely selfish grounds.

Let us look at the other side of the picture.

Dams are chiefly used for the development of hydro-electric power; the storing of water for irrigation and reclamation projects; and flood control.

We now have Grand Coulee, Bonneville, and Rock Island, at none of which structures has the ultimate hydro-electric development been reached. In spite of this factor they can now supply more current than is being used despite the tremendous war boom of industry in this section, and negotiations are even reported to be underway to attempt to sell some of this current to Canada. What reasonable grounds exist to assume that even in the next half century this present surplus, plus the large additional supply that could be provided by increasing facilities at these structures, can ever find a market.

(*Continued next issue*)

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Gene Matthews

Assisting Production Manager Floyd Wright, Matthews has been detailed during the past few months to the particular job of maintaining liason with the tuna fishermen. He has been making arrangements to see that the boats get all their needed equipment, such as tanks, pumps, and gear, and taking care of all the details necessary to get the fleet underway. He will continue during the season to coordinate company and fisherman activities toward the end that no production bottlenecks will develop.

COVER PAGE

CRPA tally scow on Bristol Bay with fish barge in background. Fishermen get their meals at tally scow and deliver their fish there. They are counted and recorded and later the fish barge is towed to the cannery. The picture was taken during the 1944 packing season by Marjory Collins.

THE BUMBLE BEE

Published periodically by the Columbia River Packers Association, Inc., Astoria, Oregon, for employees and fishermen.

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ASTORIA REPORTERS

Office.....Louise Carlson
Elmore Tuna.....Marjorie Christensen
Elmore Salmon.....P. J. Burke, Sn.
Cold Storage.....Jo Schwab
Shipyards.....Lura Skyles
Boatyard and Launches.....Johan Peterson
Scandinavian.....John North
Geo. & Barker.....Peter Welch
Occident.....Albert Paldanius
Alaska Office.....Herman Geissel
Machine Shop.....Tom Wooton

STATION REPORTERS

Reedsport.....Melvin Jensen
Cushman.....George Ready
Waldport.....Jack Marincovich
Newport.....Velda Uffelman
Depoe Bay.....Lois Edwards
Wheeler.....George Radich
Eagle Cliff.....George Johnson
Ellsworth.....Bernice Loomis
St. Helens.....Oscar Gerard
Clifton.....Jalmar Thompson
Altoona.....Laura Hendrickson
North Shore.....Frank Pfleger
Ilwaco.....Wayne Suomela
Westport, Wn......Gene Matthews
Bay Center.....Carl Rozine

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER...Ned Thorndike

NAKNEK CANNERY PACK NEARS RECORD TOTAL

1944 total is passed early in month is report

Reports from Alaska indicate that when fishing closes on Bristol Bay July 25, that CRPA's Naknek cannery will have canned the biggest pack in its history. With 125,000 cases in the cans by July 17, the cannery had passed the 85,000 case mark for 1944 by a large margin and was certain to pass the 136,000 case record of 1943. Although the pack is large CRPA's share will not be comparable with other years because of government orders limiting fishing on the bay and combining operations. This year's pack at Naknek will be divided between CRPA; Libby, McNeill & Libby, Nakat Packing Co., and Intercoastal Fishing Co. on a percentage basis, according to facilities normally operated on the Bay.

The pack was a big one despite the fact that only one-fifth of the usual amount of fishing gear was permitted to operate. This order was based on government estimates of a small run because of the poor escapement on the previous run of this cycle of fish.

Officials Visit

The Naknek operations were inspected in July by CRPA President E. W. Thompson, and Alaska Superintendent William Wootton, who flew from Astoria to Bristol Bay for a ten day visit with Naknek Superintendent Ralph Hendrickson and Nushagak Superintendent, John Head.

It was President Thompson's first visit to the Bristol Bay operations and he reports an excellent trip. The Naknek catch this year came in a more sustained and steady run of "big days" than ever before according to Superintendent Wootton. He says that Hendrickson had to scrape the manpower barrel to get sufficient help to handle the big pack but had managed to get enough native labor to handle everything in excellent shape.

At Nushagak, which has not been operated since 1940, the visitors found John Head busily engaged with a crew of six men in putting the cannery into shape for 1946 operations. They found that weather and tidal erosion had damaged the plant to some extent and all machinery was in need of a complete overhaul. It is planned to ready this plant for one or two years' operations with the idea of rebuilding following that period.

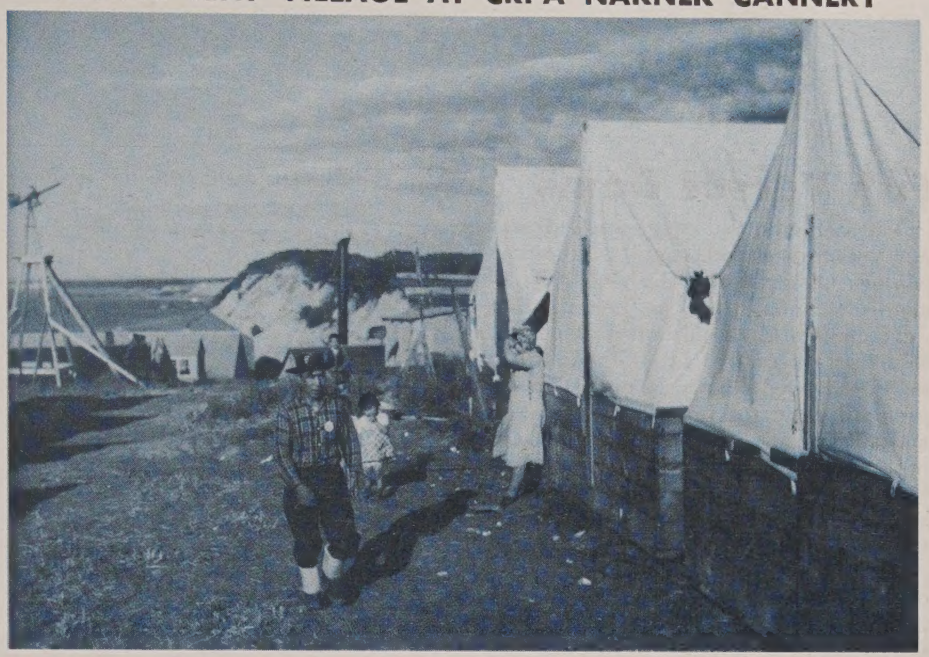
CRPA's joint operation with Libby McNeill & Libby at Ekuk, near Nushagak was reported to be successful with a good pack being canned.

Incentive pay plan progress announced

Considerable progress was made during the month in discussion of the incentive pay plan for the Astoria fish processing industry. Interviews were held with representatives of the War Labor Board and War Production Board which must approve all such plans. Following these meetings the packers met with the CRFPU negotiating committee to discuss the plan. Another meeting was held at a later date with Henry Niemela, CRFPU secretary, Joe Jurich, president, and Jeff Kibre, secretary-treasurer, of the International Fishermen & Allied Workers of America, with which the local union is affiliated.

Following this conference a general union meeting was held on July 23, in Astoria at which general outlines of the plans were presented by packers' representatives and union officials. Following this meeting it was announced that the union had approved the plan, as outlined, in principle. It was decided to appoint union and management committees in each plant to work out the standards of performance upon which the incentive plan will be based. Rapid progress in the making of plant applications for approval of the plan is now expected.

NATIVE TENT VILLAGE AT CRPA NAKNEK CANNERY



(*Photo by Marjory Collins*)
In these days of manpower shortage native help has enabled Bristol Bay canneries to handle the packs. These CRPA native workers live on a hill above the cannery.

AUDITORS AT WORK

CRPA Auditor George Beebe, with Assistants, Margaret Jensen (left) and Eva Smith.

FROM FRANCE

A delegation of French food processing experts visited CRPA canneries during the month. They were headed by Henri Cheftel, research director for a large French food canning machinery firm and included Jean Mailett and G. Roebben, managers of Paris concerns. They were accompanied by Aubrey P. Schmidt, of the Continental Can Co.

LOOMIS AT WESTPORT

William Loomis, former assistant superintendent at Ellsworth, is now handling CRPA interests at the Fishermen's Co-op dock at Westport, Wn., and is looking forward to handling a lot of tuna.

Altoona Cannery is equipped for tuna processing

CRPA tuna facilities for the 1945 season have been expanded one-third, as compared with the 1944 operational unit. This expansion has been accomplished by remodeling the company's salmon cannery at Altoona, on the Washington side of the Columbia River 12 miles east of Astoria, and installing two half-pound can lines of tuna packing equipment.

The cannery buildings have been remodeled to permit the installation of two cookers with a 20 ton per day capacity. With improvements made to the Elmore cannery tuna equipment during the winter it is expected that the total canning capacity will be about 70 tons per day for the two canneries. The two lines at Altoona can be used interchangeably for canning either salmon or tuna and the change over can be made in four hours. If necessary salmon can be canned on one line while the other is being used for tuna. The Altoona set-up was designed by General Superintendent Jay Hendrickson, assisted by the CRPA staff.

Formerly operated by steam power the cannery has been electrified with power purchased through the Wahkiakum County PUD. In addition to other improvements the former Oriental messhouse has been rebuilt in such a way that meals can be served to the cannery workers. It is planned to employ about 135 people in the operation which, with a normal supply of tuna, will last for several months. A survey of the available labor supply was made prior to initiating plans for the new development and it was found that there was an adequate labor pool in the area. Raw material for the operation can be unloaded direct from tuna fishing boats or dispatched from Astoria in tenders.

The development was approved by CRPA management to meet the labor scarcity problem in the Astoria area and to avoid the expense of freezing and storing large quantities of tuna for future canning. Besides the handling costs into the freezer and then out again for redelivery and thawing, it was found that there was a loss of yield in canning frozen tuna as compared with the fresh fish.

The cannery operation will be in charge of James Doran, formerly with Elmore Cannery. Evart Hendrickson will remain as station manager in charge of all buildings and equipment, and of fish production in the area.

ATLOONA CANNERY

Cannery building at Altoona, Washington, where CRPA is installing tuna packing facilities for the 1945 season.

CRPA employees enjoy boat trip to Altoona and fine dinner served by cannery staff

CRPA office and supervisory employees and their families enjoyed an outing Sunday, July 1, when they journeyed to Altoona on invitation of the CRPA cannery staff there. The trip was made on the power scow Golden Age.

Dozens of chairs were placed on the scow and the start from Astoria was made in the bright sunshine, with 84 persons on board.

On arrival at Altoona the visitors inspected the plant, particularly the new tuna canning installations. They then went to the mess house where they were served an excellent dinner by a committee of ladies headed by Mrs. Laura Hendrickson, wife of Evart Hendrickson, station manager, with baked ham, roast chicken, and baked salmon, as the principal courses. During the dinner Mrs. Hendrickson was presented with a large bouquet of flowers from the supervisory staff of Elmore Cannery.

Replete with the excellent food served, the party spent the remainder of the afternoon swimming, hiking, or taking sunbaths. A diving exhibition by Jim Burke, Jr., former Yakima Valley champion, was an entertainment feature of the day. Burke, who learned to dive in the Yakima River, which is only a foot and a half deep, gave a thrilling exhibition of the three point landing type of diving with the center section entering the water first. He was assisted by Bozo Waisanen and Marge Gearhart.

Leaving Altoona late in the afternoon the Golden Age headed up river for several miles and returned by a new channel passing several seining grounds. A brisk northwest wind sent the spray flying over the craft but the passengers were protected by tarpaulins and spent the time enjoying music by Bill Dickerson, and refreshments placed on board by Frank Hoagland and Gene Mathews.

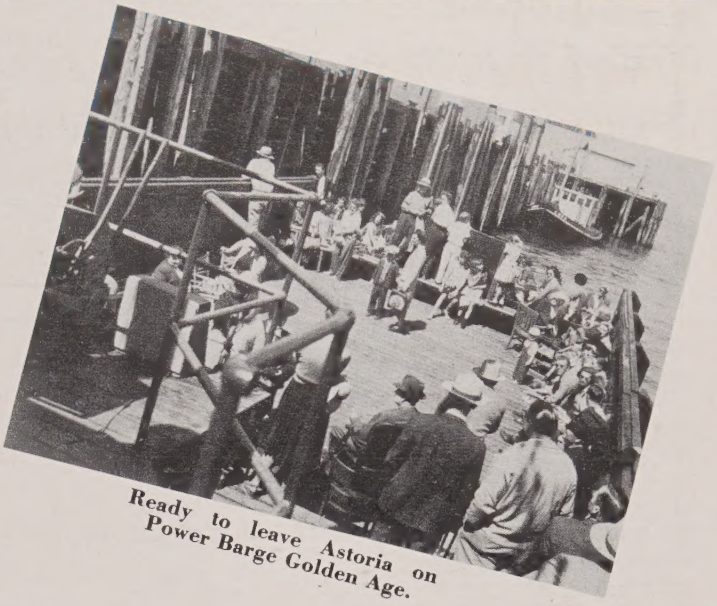
The outing was a big success and much credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. Evart Hendrickson and Mr. and Mrs. James Doran, the official hosts, and to Mesdames Margaret Linggie, Levertie Hillsberg, Mary Whitten, Frances Clink, and Katharine Tarabochia, who assisted with the cooking and serving of the dinner.

AT EASE

Gudman, Palmberg & Palmberg.

CRPA ENJOYS ALTOONA OUTING

Blondes and brunettes, all getting suntan or sunburn.

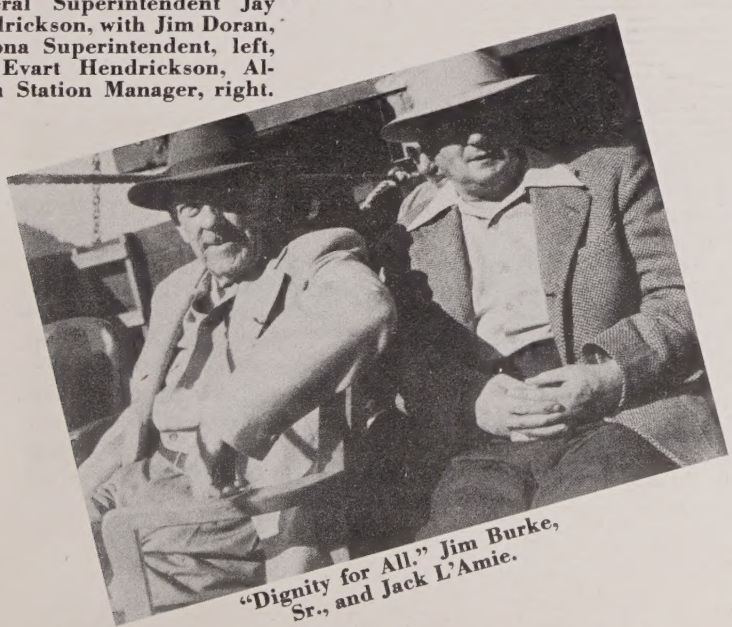


Ready to leave Astoria on Power Barge Golden Age.

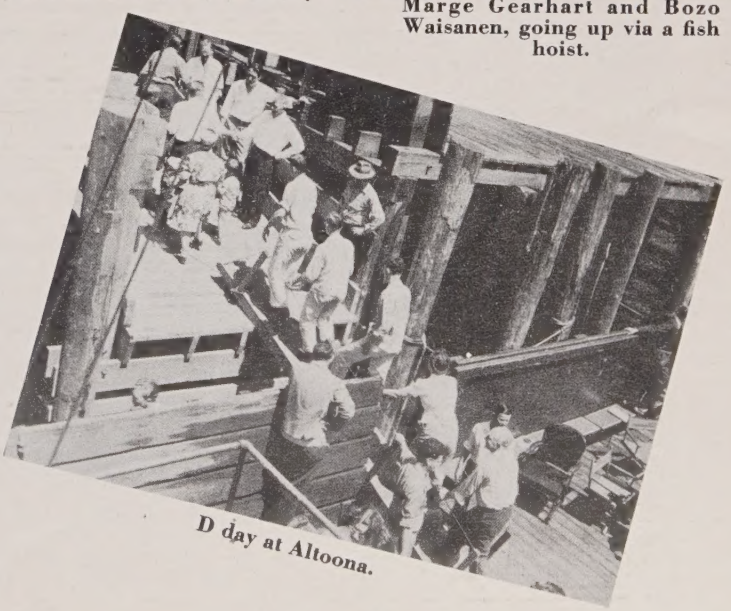
General Superintendent Jay Hendrickson, with Jim Doran, Altoona Superintendent, left, and Evart Hendrickson, Altoona Station Manager, right.

W. L. Thompson, Chairman of the Board, flanked by (left) T. F. Sandoz, Executive Vice-President, and E. H. Nelson, Secretary.

Marge Gearhart and Bozo Waisanen, going up via a fish hoist.



"Dignity for All." Jim Burke, Sr., and Jack L'Amie.



D day at Altoona.

FISH PRODUCTION JUMPS—TUNA ARRIVE

Trawl fish catch improves, salmon returns are short

Trawl fish production picked up during the month of June with CRPA landings totaling 1,579,753 pounds for the 30 day period bringing the total for the year up over 4,000,000 pounds. Practically the entire June production was rock fish.

High boat for June was the Brookfield, skippered by Bob Cronen, which brought in 333,576 pounds. None of Cronen's trips were over five days in length and he brought his catches in excellent condition.

Army Gets Product

CRPA is proud of the announcement by Captain Norman Weitkamp, of the Quartermaster Market Service, Seattle, that on the basis of dollar volume CRPA furnished topped the list of all U.S. and Canadian firms, supplying the armed services with sea food items, in both April and May. He added that there was every indication that the completion of records would indicate the same position for this company in the month of June.

Salmon Production Short

Salmon production continued short, due more to bad fishing conditions because of continued freshets than apparent lack of fish as government figures indicate a May and June escapement of salmon over Bonneville dam, almost 100 per cent greater than in 1944.

Salmon fishing is expected to be better during August as, following efforts by the industry, the Western Defense Command opened some plus two miles of lower river fishing grounds formerly closed because of the presence of mine fields. Many fishermen expect that this change will double the August output of the past few years. The pack to date is very close to that of 1944.

CRPA IN SOUTH PACIFIC

Lt. Edwin Parker, U.S.N., son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Parker, of Astoria, writes that while watching the loading of supplies "somewhere in the Philippines," he saw a box with the CRPA stencil. On investigation he found that it contained frozen rock fish fillets packed here. Lt. Parker writes that it "certainly felt good" to see the familiar box marking.

CANNERY VETERAN

Thirty-one years' experience in salmon packing at CRPA's Elmore Cannery has not slowed the hands or dimmed the eyes of Anna Forsdeman. She is shown actively engaged at her 31st season of packing salmon and evidently can still smile about it.

THERE IS ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

(In each issue of the Bumble Bee hereafter there will be a list of suggestion awards. All awards granted to date will be published as soon as space permits.)

Lillian Robinson, $5.00. Improved liver picking operation.

Jo Schwab, $25.00. Installation of equipment room at Cold Storage.

Millie J. Sagen, $5.00. Addition of stretcher for Rest Room at Cold Storage.

Helen Angberg, $5.00. Installation of switch for operator of washers in filleting room.

James Bakkensen, Westport, $5.00. Installation of cover one end of hoist rail.

Valda A. Coon, Newport, $5.00. Suggestion for more efficient handling of employee equipment.

Millie J. Sagen, $5.00. Installation of sanitary sink at Cold Storage.

A. N. Thorndike, $5.00. Use of metal sheath around posts in labeling warehouse.

Mary E. Martin, $5.00. Installation of safety device on box making machines.

Lena C. Mahala, $5.00. Covering steam pipes near liver picking tables as matter of safety.

P. J. Burke, Sr., $5.00. Segregation of various varieties of fish by stations.

P. J. Burke, Jr., $5.00. Duplicate copies of all purchase orders with return of one copy where requisition is issued.

George Moore, $5.00. Installation of scale near hoist at Cold Storage.

Wm. A. Christenson, $5.00. Piping of water service under dock.

C. Thompson, $5.00. Work on light weight hydraulic trucks to make them more suitable for certain types of work.

Millie J. Sagen, $5.00. Flag pole at Cold Storage.

Albacore late but production now under way

Albacore tuna began to show up off the Oregon and Washington coast a little later this year than usual. Catches were spotty for a time with many schools of fish reported, but fishermen finding it difficult to attract them to the lures.

CRPA's Elmore tuna cannery began turning over on July 24. By July 25, reports from fishing boats at sea and from ports up and down the coast indicated that full production was starting and big loads were expected in during the week-end.

Jig boat fishing predominated as usual at the start of the season but the big bait boats were beginning to turn up for bait tank installation. Some of the trawlers will wait until shortly after the first of August but by that time the entire fleet is expected to be at sea.

Jim Burke, Jr., had the Elmore tuna lines so well prepared for the season that no trouble was encountered in the initial packing endeavor. As soon as production starts to pass Elmore's daily capacity the new tuna equipment at Altoona will be put to work.

Stampede II tows in sunken tuna boat; Crew rescued

Five fishermen had a narrow escape from death and the 50 foot tuna boat Melody was nearly lost Tuesday, July 24, when the craft suddenly began to sink about noon, eight miles northwest of the Columbia River entrance. From causes, as yet unknown, the boat, recently constructed, began to go down. Members of the crew climbed onto her raft and were quickly spotted by naval patrol planes. Coast Guard boats made the rescue.

The Melody, with her stern just showing was spotted by the trawler Stampede II, Skipper Charles Wuori. Arne Sivanen a member of the Stampede's crew went overboard in the icy water and swam to the sunken craft with a line. The boat, which had five tons of tuna on board, was towed into the river by the Stampede II, assisted by the Coast Guard craft. Wednesday she was towed to Astoria and unloaded. Members of the Melody's crew were Skipper Tom Rustad, George Penne, of Petersburg, Alaska; Larry Olstead and Gunnar Abelsen, Seattle, and Larry White, Astoria.

CRPA SHIPYARD IS PREPARING FOR BAIT TANK RUSH

CRPA shipyard has had another busy month of boat repair work. Some 16 boats were on the ways for major and minor repairs and as the month closed there was still a large waiting list. So imperative was the demand for repairs that crews had to be taken from the new Trawlers Kiska and Swiftwater and put on repair work further delaying the completion of the new boats.

Two bait tanks out of the 106 built by CRPA were installed and Superintendent Bill Wootton is looking for a rush demand for these installations as soon as tuna bait fishing starts in August.

SHIPS LOG

We have two new additions to our office force, Mrs. Betty Howard and Miss Donna Smith.

Nurse Ada Koshay has returned to work after a pleasant trip to Eastern Oregon and Great Falls, Montana.

Shipwright Fred S. Browne is a new employee in the yard.

Shipwright Herbert Sharp enjoyed a visit with his son S 1/c Cecil Sharp, who was here on leave before entering Harvard for further study. Seaman Sharp is a former shipyard employee.

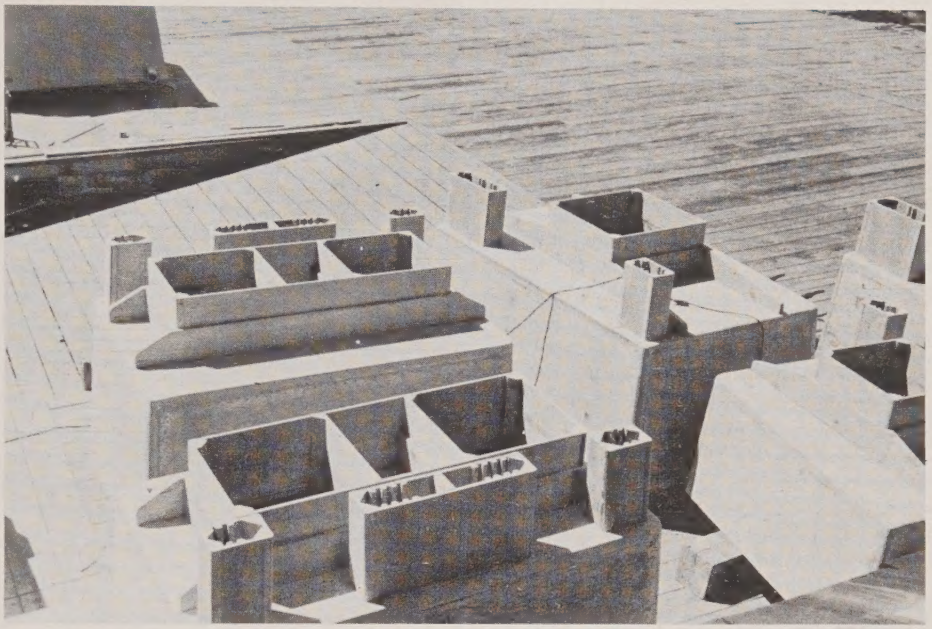
CRPA CAFETERIA WILL OPEN SOON

CRPA management announces that a large and modern cafeteria is under construction on the third floor of Elmore Cannery. The room is large and surrounded by windows on three sides. It is planned to serve hot lunches to the cannery employees at cost. The new lunchroom will be fitted out attractively and the kitchen equipment will be the most modern that can be purchased. About 100 persons will be served at a time and it is expected that between 300 and 350 persons can be served during the noon rest period. It is expected to be in operation before the end of August.

FISH EATS BULLET

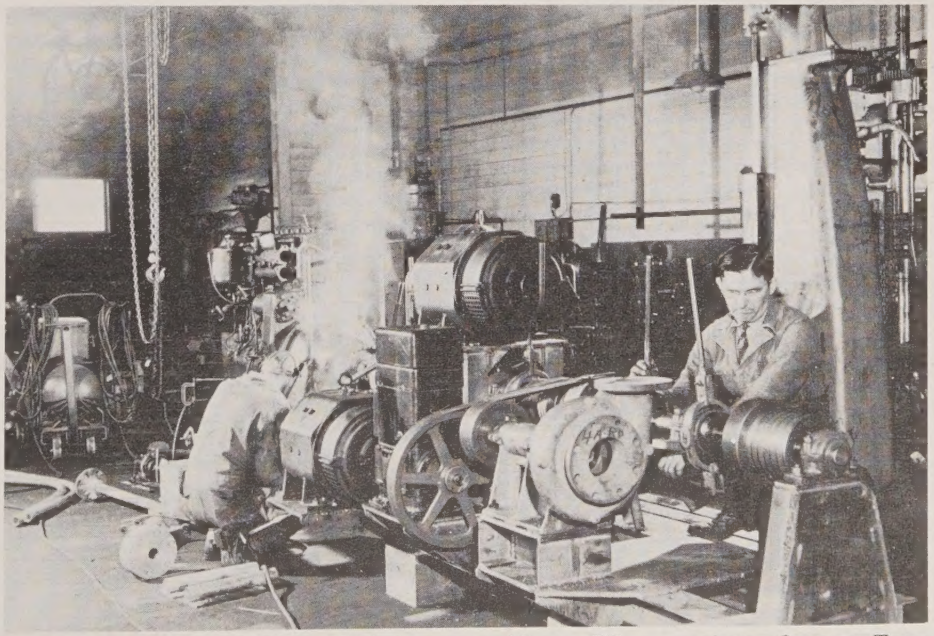
Mary Pappageorge, employed at CRPA Cold Storage reached into a rock fish to pull out the liver. Instead her hand came out with an armor piercing type machine gun bullet. The fish had been delivered by Skipper Andy Marincovich, of the Iceland. Just how it happened is the mystery of the month.

TUNA BAIT TANKS



A birdseye view of "live bait" tanks made by CRPA shipyard. These tanks are made and designed to hold the small fish used to attract the tuna schools to the fishing craft. Many features of their design are under CRPA patent.

ENGINE ASSEMBLY



Arvid Kangas, left, and Roy Chisholm, assembly auxilliary generator for new Tuna Clipper Swiftwater at CRPA machine shop.

Market Letter

Seafood shortage is as critical as other lines

The extreme shortage of seafood production ties in with the critical shortage of food in general. This condition will prevail and become more aggravated during the next six months. In respect to production of our company, we wish to spotlight some of the reasons why we are unable to supply all of the product requested by our regular trade.

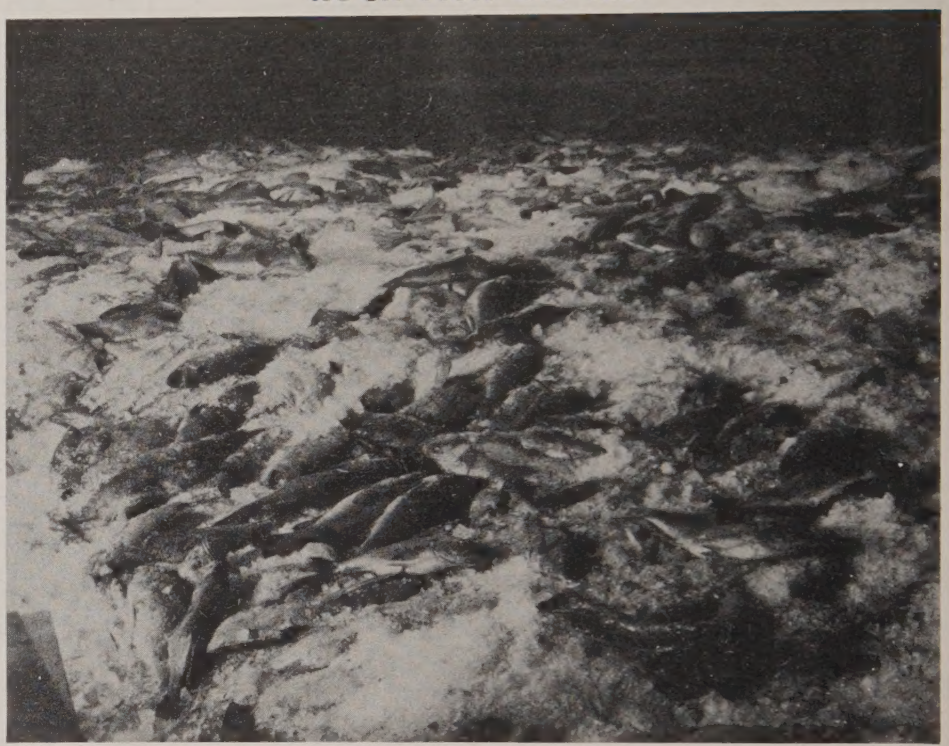
"Frozen Crabmeat". The production of this item for the past season, which has now closed, reflected a decrease of approximately 30 per cent as compared to 1944. This decrease is attributed to a heavy loss of crab gear during our peak production months due to storms which prevailed in the Pacific Northwest. This condition also prevented fishermen from servicing their gear at regular intervals.

"Frozen Fillets." With the switch of the war to the South Pacific, we have been called upon by the Quartermaster Depot for a large percentage of our pack of Frozen Fillets for export shipment. Although our production to date of trawl fish exceeds last season, we have a definite obligation to give the Army and Navy first call in filling a portion of their requirements. We are looking forward to the time when our distribution to the civilian trade can be increased.

"Canned Salmon." The spring season which opened on the Columbia River, May 1st, and closed May 20th, produced only a nominal quantity of canned salmon. After deducting 80 per cent of our pack for the armed forces, we were handicapped in trying to satisfy even a part of the heavy demand for this item. We do not expect production of any consequence of this product until about August 1st. This means it will be September or October before the allocation of shipments can be made to our various markets.

"Canned Tuna." At this writing albacore tuna is just beginning to appear off the Oregon and Washington coast. With our increased packing facilities, the addition of many new boats to the fleet now fishing for our company, and favorable weather conditions, we are anticipating another good season. We cannot accept orders from any of our markets until it is possible for us to work up fair allocations on products ready for distribution.

ROCK FISH ON ICE



Brought from the sea bottom by trawl nets these fish wait processing by CRPA filleters. From the time the fish is hauled out of the water until it reaches the consumer CRPA products are carefully kept at temperatures which will prevent deterioration.

VISITORS

Olen Delaney, Oklahoma City, broker.

Mr. Ossman, Ossman & Co., Oklahoma City.

R. J. Gruber, buyer, Kroger Grocery & Baking Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

A. W. Adkins, Kroger Grocery & Baking Co., San Francisco.

John Happy, broker, Spokane.

Maurice Rattray, chief, Fish Section, WFA, Washington, D. C.

Captain Norman Weitkamp, buyer, Q.M. Center, Seattle, and Mrs. Weitkamp.

Mr. and Mrs. White, Ocean Foods Co., Los Angeles.

BROKER VISITS

Aldo Casaretto, of Koulouris & Casaretto Co., Los Angeles broker, and a friend Link Mudgett, also of Los Angeles, called at the CRPA main offices during a recent visit to the Northwest.